

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the independent claims to more clearly point out the invention. More specifically, the added language attempts to add the needed structure and operational limitations to show the main feature of the invention that is provided with the device that is mounted on a wall adjacent and not covering a switch, alarm, thermostat or the like. By mounting the device and its components adjacent to a switch, the switch may be operated without an additional effort required by prior art devices that must be moved into an out of the way position to access the switch. This feature is critical in emergency conditions such as presented during a power failure, fire, or other emergency situation.

Dependent claim 9 has been amended to satisfy the requirements of 35 USC §112.

The Examiner has asked that the drawings be amended to show the deflecting means and the cam means. Applicant respectfully traverses this objection and points out that the specification calls for the deflecting means to operate in a cam-like fashion to deflect object that would come in contact with and damage a wall mounted device. Each figure in the drawings has either a curved or inclined surface to act as a deflector in a cam-like fashion. The description contains numerous references (paragraphs 008,0032,0035) to the cam-like action of both the curved and inclined members that guide objects away from the wall mounted device in a deflecting or cam like fashion.

The original claims have been rejected on the basis of 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Ramsing U.S. Patent 3,204,807. Applicant points out that the interpretation of the arc between the side 17 and middle cover section 16 of the hinged cover as constituting a deflecting means is and interpretation not present or suggested by the disclosure. The wall 17 of Ramsing constitutes an abutment and just the opposite of the deflector surfaces provided by applicant's claimed invention.

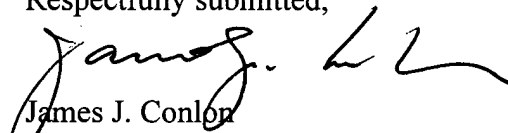
Where the side surfaces 17 of Ramsing provide abutments that would obstruct an object that came in contact and thus damage not only the cover but also the switch, the curved and inclined surfaces of applicant's disclosure guide such objects away from the wall to protect not only the bumper but also the switch. The rounded edges of Ramsing are not intended to provide any function and appear only to be present for manufacturing the metal stamping as suggested or for aesthetic considerations.

Ramsing further is aimed at solving a completely different problem than applicant's invention. The Ramsing structure is directed to disclosing a spring-urged weather proof cover to protect the enclosed electrical switch from the elements. There is no hint or disclosure of using the cover plate closure to deflect objects to protect the switch while at the same time allowing the switch to be completely accessible at all times. Applicant's claimed structure provides such features.

The other references all have one common obstacle or objection that is overcome by applicant's structure and that is that these devices all prevent or delay access to the protected switch and require the protector to be moved to an out of the way position or maneuvered around to access the switch. Both requirements prevent the protected switches from being as quickly accessed as is possible with applicant's claimed invention.

Applicant respectfully solicits allowance of the amended claims. Should the Examiner have any questions or suggestions he may feel free to call applicant's attorney to resolve the questions and expedite placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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